

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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Contact: Cooper Bratton
Phone: 919/733-5612

EASLEY ANNOUNCES 100 NEW JOBS, \$2.5 MILLION INVESTMENT FOR GASTON COUNTY

RALEIGH—Gov. Mike Easley today announced Texas Encore Materials (TEM) will locate to Gaston County, creating 100 jobs over three years with an average salary of \$16 per hour. Twenty new jobs will be created in the company's first year of operation. The location of this facility is directly related to North Carolina's efforts in waste management and recycling and the partnership between the Department of Commerce and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"TEM's announcement to locate in Gaston County not only provides our state with high quality jobs but demonstrates yet again that job creation and environmental protection can go hand and hand," said Easley. "North Carolina continues to benefit from our investments in infrastructure, workforce development and the environment. TEM is an innovative company that enjoys much success in the industry, and we welcome them to North Carolina."

The company received a \$983,360 grant from the Scrap Tire Disposal Account managed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Division of Waste Management. North Carolina's ban on scrap tires in landfills has created a market for companies such as TEM that will convert crumb rubber from old scrap tires into a variety of consumer products.

TEM is moving from Romulus, Michigan, and will locate to a 74,840 square foot existing industrial facility that will be fully operational in April 2004. Investment during the three-year period is estimated at \$2.5 million.

For more than 11 years, TEM has been researching and developing a process incorporating recycled tire pieces into new manufactured products such as plastics, coatings, asphalt and rubber products. The North Carolina facility will manufacture extruded sheets made from recycled rubber and plastic resins. Finished sheets are used for automotive parts, consumer products, roofing materials and industrial components.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the state of North Carolina and to commend the Department of Commerce, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Gaston County Economic Development Commission, Duke Power and the Southside Companies for their roles in making this move possible," said Dr. Philip Friedman, chief executive of TEM. "The professionalism we encountered in North Carolina has streamlined our decision process and made our transition seamless. Texas Encore Materials is looking forward to occupying our new facility, producing quality products from recycled materials and providing good job and business opportunities to the community."

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